



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

*Utica, NY*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Utica for a Brownfields Pilot. Utica is a relatively small metropolitan area located along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal. In the 1800s and early 1900s, the majority of businesses were paper and textile milling companies. In the mid-1900s, the area began to support high-tech manufacturing and the textile mills began to shut down. Like many industrial cities in the northeast, Utica (population 61,368) has experienced a significant decline in its tax and job base over the past 50 years. Today, most textile mills are closed or being used by different businesses, and most high-tech industries have moved out of the State.

While many of the abandoned industrial sites in Utica have known contamination, others are only perceived to be contaminated. Adjacent industries are unwilling to purchase properties due to the perceived environmental contamination and associated liabilities. There are many small abandoned and underused commercial/industrial sites in Utica. The City is making active efforts to demolish these buildings, remove the environmental and health threats, and make room for new economic growth. In the past two years, 300 abandoned structures have been demolished; 250 of these sites have been marketed, and some have been sold for redevelopment.

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Utica, New York*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will target the Foster Paper Company site, an abandoned paper manufacturing facility, and three additional sites.

## Contacts:

Office of the Mayor  
City of Utica  
(315) 792-0152

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 2  
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

The Pilot will focus on the Foster Paper Company site, an abandoned paper manufacturing facility, and three additional sites.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Pilot's objective is to prepare the Foster Paper Company site and three additional sites for cleanup and redevelopment. The Pilot plans to: perform site assessments to characterize the extent and degree of contamination; design cleanup plans to prepare the properties for purchase and redevelopment; and provide Utica community members with an understanding of potential environmental and ownership concerns to enable them to help shape and participate in redevelopment in an informed manner.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and II environmental assessments of the Foster Paper Company site and three additional sites to determine cleanup levels and objectives required under the New York State Voluntary Cleanup Program;
- Integrating the assessment results into cleanup plans for the sites; and
- Conducting a Community Involvement Plan to encourage community input and decision making for reuse of the sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.